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Modified Winter Carnival celebrated on campus

Hannah Amell
Staff Writer

Lawrence’s annual Winter Carnival began Monday, Feb. 1 and will conclude on Sunday, Feb. 7 with a celebration of the Superbowl. The Student Organization for University Planning (SOUP) organized and adapted the week-long event to be socially-distanced and to conform to current COVID-19 guidelines on campus. Earlier this week, SOUP hosted several socially-distanced events on campus, including a scavenger hunt, raffle, gingerbread house competition, snow-globe making event and grocery bag BINGO. Events were either held

in large, open spaces or were grab-and-go. Despite the necessary changes to the Winter Carnival in the name of safety, SOUP aimed to make this year’s events more interactive than in previous years, as per students’ requests. Sophomore Shae Erlandson, who competed in the gingerbread house competition on Tuesday, said that she valued SOUP’s efforts to host these events amid the pandemic. “I appreciate it a lot,” Erlandson said. “I think that [SOUP] is doing the most that can be done, and I think they’re doing a very nice job with the limitations that are in place this year.”

Tonight, SOUP is hosting magician David Anthony at 7 p.m. Students can either view Anthony’s performance in-person and socially-distanced in the Somerset Room of the Warch Campus Center or tune in virtually via Zoom. Saturday’s events include broomball on Ormsby Lake, a snowman competition and a virtual “No Presence Ball.” Sunday, a Superbowl celebration — the SOUPerbowl — will be held in Warch. “Winter Carnival, I think, is one of the most special things that Lawrence has to offer,” said SOUP Co-President, senior Stephanie Meyer. “It’s a time [when] the community comes together

and celebrates a Lawrence tradition. It sort of unites all people who have ever gone to Lawrence . . . We wanted to make sure that, in these uncertain times, where everyone is stressed out and feeling a little frustrated with life, that [the Winter Carnival] could provide a reprieve and give them a chance to be a part of the Lawrence community and this tradition.” The No Presence Ball, rather than the formal, in-person President’s Ball — which is traditionally held during the Saturday of Winter Carnival — will be held over Zoom on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. This is meant to serve as a COVID-safe opportunity for stu-

dents to dress up and participate in a dance from the safety of their dorms. Residence hall lobbies will have photo booths run by professional photographers and be stocked with grab-and-go gourmet cupcakes. This does not replace the President’s Ball, which has been rescheduled to Saturday, Feb. 20 and is still undergoing adaptations. “SOUP has been working really hard to make sure that [the President’s Ball] will still happen in some sort of capacity,” Meyer said. The official event has not been fully finalized yet but is currently being planned by SOUP.




As part of Winter Carnival, Lawrence students decorate gingerbread houses in the Somerset Room of the Warch Campus Center on Tuesday, Feb. 2. Photo by Sebastain Evans.

Author Laymon delivers University Convocation

Caleb Yuan
Staff Writer

The University Convocation, “The Radical Possibility and Democratic Necessity of Navel-Gazing,” was held virtually by the Public Events Committee on Monday, Jan. 28. Kiese Laymon, Hubert H. McAlexander Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Mississippi and the author of the book, “Heavy: An American Memoir,” spoke at the event about his writing experience with “Heavy” and the need for navel-gazing within the community. Associate Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Public Events Committee, Allison Fleshman, is part of the selection process for Convocation speakers. “As a committee, we knew that Laymon’s ability to write and capture the southern Black experience and un-selfishly turn inward for deep in-

trospection would benefit our ongoing campus conversations on racial and social injustice, personal reflection and continued work to create a more inclusive community,” Fleshman said. **To view the full Convocation program, scan the QR code:**  During Convocation, Laymon emphasized the ongoing process of revising his work, “Heavy,” as arts are always unfinished as time passes by. Laymon also talked about his early years of writing experience and how he was inspired by his personal experience with school and family as well as the written lines on his notebook. The frustration about racism and domestic abuse of Black families had driven him to write the sentence, “America seems filled with violent people who like causing people pain

but hate when those people tell them that pain hurts.” Besides his own experience with “Heavy,” Laymon stressed the importance of “navel-gazing,” a self-indulgent or excessive contemplation of oneself or a single issue at the expense of a wider view within society. Laymon argues that if people look deep into themselves with tenderness and imagination, they would find something that essentially connects everyone together. “If you look into your navel with any acuity, with any tenderness, you’re going to find something you never saw before, and that something is going to help you understand the people you love more. It’s going to help you understand context more, and, most importantly, it’s going to help you understand what you want tomorrow to be.” Laymon said. Following his speech, a pre-recorded interview of Laymon by Amy On-

giri, Jill Beck Director of Film Studies and Associate Professor of Film Studies, and freshmen Edwin Martinez and Tania Sosa was shown on the livestream. After talking to Laymon, Martinez expressed his feeling regarding his experience of the interview. “I felt a sense of connection while talking to Kiese. It felt like home — as if I was just having a regular conversation with a friend,” Martinez said. “I felt really thrilled for the conversation that we had. I want others to view the conversation and listen to the discussions that we had. I think the conversation provides so much perspective that is almost always missing in all facets of our daily lives.” A public question and answer session with Laymon was held and moderated by President Mark Burstein immediately after the Convocation. One of the questions was about what home is to Laymon. Laymon responded that, even though he had been living in

Jackson for many years, it is still hard for him to recognize the part of the city he has never been to as home. The concept of home to him is complicated and fluid, Laymon said. In addition to the main speech and the following question and answer sessions, the Convocation began with the Prelude, which was a performance of the song “Genius Child” by sophomores Preston Parker and Maddy Kung. Following the Land Acknowledgement by junior Jessica Hopkins, David McGlynn, Professor of English, introduced Laymon. The Convocation ended with the Postlude, a performance of the song “Set Me as a Seal” by Lawrence University’s Concert Choir and the members of the Appleton East High School Easterners, directed by Stephen Sieck, Associate Professor of Music.



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57th Annual Great Midwest Trivia Contest held virtually

Emily Zuniga
Staff Writer

This year marked the 57th Annual Great Midwest Trivia Contest. It was held over a period of 50 hours from Friday, Jan. 29 to Sunday, Jan. 31. The competition was streamed through Twitch, and Discord was utilized for teams to communicate with each other and to answer questions.

A total of 91 teams participated in the contest. Lawrentians made up 14 of these teams, while the other 77 were made up of a variety of non-Lawrence participants. The top three student teams, in order, were as follows: (1) “At This Point, Why Not Trust an Aquarius Microwaving and Peeling — why IS [REDACTED] on FiRe — oh yes YES Flambéing and society of bones and pyromaniacs (owo) cinematic Universe™. The previous name has since burst into flames; and like a phoenix from the ashes it has risen as a Virgo,” also referred to as “Aquarius,” (2) “The Gaming House Special Featuring the Nipples of Knowledge” and (3) “Joe and Ethan fun time Bonanza team.” The winning team outside of the Lawrence community was “Deluigi.”

Trivia Masters presented players with a variety of questions in which they were encouraged to use any resources available to them, including the internet. This year’s Head Trivia Master was senior Grace Krueger, who worked in collaboration with 10 other Trivia Masters. It was the Trivia Masters’ responsibility to create questions.

According to one Trivia Master, junior Riley Seib, the questions are unlike those of a traditional trivia contest. The Trivia Masters write questions in a format similar to riddles. Then, participants are encouraged to use outside sources to aid them in answering the questions.

Additionally, there are action questions that require participants to complete tasks. The only major difference in the questions as a result of COVID-19 was the elimination of questions that required students to be on campus and to have in-person contact.

According to the event’s description on Twitch, teams had two options for answering questions. They could answer via a waiting room in a Discord server or by calling in to the Trivia Hotline. They were given a time limit of three minutes to answer each question and were awarded five points for correct answers.

At the end of the contest, teams had the chance to answer a series of three challenging questions known as Garrudas. Players were allowed three chances to answer

each Garruda, with correct answers earning teams between 25 and 50 points. The last question asked, referred to as the Super Garruda, earned teams 100 points and was given a 20-minute time limit.

Seib prepared for the event by writing questions and learning how Twitch and Discord worked. This year, the Trivia Masters created a spreadsheet to coordinate shifts and sleep breaks between masters.

Senior Grace Foster was a member of the winning Lawrence team, Aquarius, which was comprised of 12 people. To prepare, they had a team meeting on Facebook to set up their team Discord and strategize sleep schedules.

Foster said that a total of 352 questions, including Garrudas and action questions, were asked throughout the course of the contest. Foster explained that one of her favorite parts of the contest was that it took players to weird corners of the internet.

Seniors Eliana Whitehouse and Rachel Robrecht were also members of team Aquarius. They explained that their team was in constant communication throughout the contest. They stated that the members of their team signed up for shifts and made sure there were at least three people playing at all times.

Another member of team Aquarius was junior Helen Threlkeld. She said that, although the team could not be together physically to answer this year’s questions, they spent a lot of time typing in their Discord server and communicating electronically. She felt that the community aspect and getting an excuse to spend 50 hours with her friends was one of the best parts of the contest.

Senior Ada Stelzer shared that Aquarius was awarded a piece of digital art for winning the contest. Stelzer thought that one of the best questions of this year’s contest was an action question that required teams to compose and perform a sea shanty.

“There’s nothing else [besides Trivia] that lets me get so divorced from reality,” Stelzer said. “I was worried it would be different in the pandemic, but, in some ways it felt even better because it felt like I was making something with my friends out of nothing.”

This year’s Trivia Masters included: seniors Grace Krueger (Headmaster), Mary Grace Wagner, El Horner, Cristina Sada, Finn Witt, Caroline Rosch and Ellie Ensing as well as juniors Mikayla Frank-Martin, Riley Newton (next year’s Headmaster), Nick Mayerson and Riley Seib.



Trivia Masters seniors Grace Krueger and Finn Witt lead players through this year’s online questions.
Photo by Sebastian Evans.

Weekly updates on the status of COVID-19 at Lawrence

COVID-19 ON CAMPUS



TESTS CONDUCTED:

Total LU tests:
10,305

ACTIVE CASES:

Active LU cases:
11

TOTAL POSITIVE CASES:

Total LU cases:
114

Total Appleton tests:
40,641

Active Appleton cases:
422

Total Appleton cases:
7,595



We are in:

YELLOW LIGHT

- “Concerning” case numbers on campus; widespread transmisison off campus
- Isolation and quarantine spaces available

In-person classes continue, non-essential employees on campus are reduced, testing increases, in-person social activities are allowed following safety guidelines and restrictions are placed on residence hall capacities.

*data reported as of Feb. 3

Do you have questions about any new developments on campus? Do you think The Lawrentian should be covering any specific event?

Let us know!

Send any tips or suggestions to TheLawrentianNews@gmail.com.



This Week in Sports History: 1924 Canadian hockey team brings home olympic gold

Gannon Flynn
Section Editor

In 1924, the Winter Olympic Games were held in Chamonix, France. Significant for Olympics history, this year's contests would do away withy the Bergvall System — a knockout method that involved the losing teams beaten by the first-place country to compete amongst themselves for the silver medal, and those defeated by the second-place squad would fight for bronze. Instead, the 1924 overseers of the games installed a round-robin method of elimination, which increased the amount of title games played and allowed for the truly better teams to shine among their inferiors. This playoff system was a great benefit to the Canadians, who thrived off of being able to play consistently and effectively, and brought back their second hockey gold on Feb. 4, 1924.

Of all the competing nations, Canada was the only squad that had a team representing them; to the Olympics, they sent the Toronto Granites to Chamonix — who, in the 1920 Summer Olympic bout in Antwerp, Belgium, had claimed a world championship. Defending their title, they had plenty of motivation to secure a second victory for their homeland, and their strong start reflected this. Of the first group, which contained Canada, Finland, Czechoslovakia and Switzerland, the former two combined for five wins and a single loss, while the latter half only accrued a single win; Canada never lost, while Switzerland never won.

In the second group (United States, Great Britain, France and Belgium), Canada's fellow North Americans enjoyed sustained success, winning all three divisional games. Great Britain followed close behind with two wins, while France was unable to represent themselves in their home country at 1-2, and Belgium was beaten in every contest. The championship round saw the most recent game for each finalist carried over to the first round. This would set Canada and the United States at 1-0, while setting back Great Britain and Sweden 0-1.

Matchup #1 between Canada and Great Britain was nothing short of a pummeling; in fact, Great Britain would be outscored all game by what the Granites accomplished in the first period. Among three periods, the Granites scored six, six and seven goals respectively, while Britain's paltry two goals in the first period would mark the end of their scoring as they succumbed to the professional defense of a well-trained team. U.S. vs. Sweden was even uglier — The Americans were able to completely dub the outclassed Scandinavians with 20 goals and shut out the Swedes entirely, effectively ending their chance at any medal above bronze. Feb. 2nd's bronze medal match between Great Britain and Sweden was a tight one, as a 4-3 match ending in Britain's favor was carried to its conclusion on the back of forward Eric Carruthers, who scored three of his team's four goals (his brother, Colin, scored none — it's fair to assume Eric never let him forget it).

With the bronze winner decided, only the titans were left to compete;

to be fair, though, Canada's superiority in this bout was established pre-match. Though the U.S. garnered a total of 84 goals, which was 44 ahead of third-place Great Britain, Canada blew them out of the water at 132. As a matter of fact, they outscored every goal the U.S. ever put up in the first divisional round, 85-84. The only team to ever score against the U.S. was Canada in the championship match, but it was the worst time for the Americans to let up; the first period had Canada up 2-1, but the score by forward Herb Drury gave them more than a fighting chance. Their hopes were crushed by the end of the second, though — between scores by Harry Watkins, Hooley Smith and Dunc Munro, Canada increased its lead to 5-1, and the U.S. would never score again. Canada would boost their stats with a third period goal, but it had basically been decided: the Canadians would be headed back north with a batch of gold medals and an unstoppable title defense.

Canada's vicious offense was headed by left wing Harry Watson, who had a career as a fighter ace during WWI prior to his OHA career. Of Canada's 132 goals, Watson was responsible for more than a third of those at 36, with 11 more points to his name coming from assists. Despite a historical performance on a world stage, Watson didn't seem to be satisfied as a hockey player — despite an NHL offer equivalent to \$150,000, he retired from the sport in 1924, only returning to the world of ice hockey as a coach much later in life. In all fairness, a literal world championship does seem impossible to top.

Buckets with the boys

Shawn McCandlish
Sports Editor

Men's college basketball has been underway for a while now. However, with all that has been going on in the world this past month including the presidential inauguration, Covid-19 and the recent stock market fiasco, this season has gone largely unnoticed. This is a shame, since there have been several noteworthy headlines this season.

Probably the most noteworthy story is Gonzaga and Baylor's stranglehold on the top two spots, with Gonzaga in first place and Baylor just behind them. Both teams are currently 16-0 and account for all 64 of the possible first-place votes. This stranglehold isn't recent either, as both Gonzaga and Baylor have topped the rankings for the past 11 weeks while the rest of the top 25 remains chaotic. Despite the apparent evenness at the top, there appears to be a much bigger difference. In the preseason polls, four teams received first-place votes, with Gonzaga claiming 28 and Baylor 24. However, the next polls that came out showed a drastic change, as Gonzaga received 57 while Baylor only received six. This hasn't changed much either, despite both teams being undefeated — in the last rankings, Gonzaga accounted for 61 votes and Baylor three.

The last rankings also had several notable occurrences; of these, the two biggest are the massive jumps made in the ranking by both Oklahoma (11-4, 6-3 Big-12) and Ohio State (14-4, 8-4 Big-10). Oklahoma jumped 15 spots to land inside the top 10 after defeating their third straight top 10 team, defeating previously ninth-ranked Alabama. They became the second team in 25 years to accomplish that feat while also becoming the first team to beat four top 10 teams in the same month since 1974. Ohio State, on the other hand, jumped six spots to land at number seven in the rankings after quietly putting together a decent season, including winning each of their past seven games, with four of those coming by double digits. They are now the second-highest ranked team from the Big-10 behind Michigan despite being the fourth-ranked

team in the conference.

Other notable teams in the top 25 include both Tennessee (12-4, 5-4 SEC) and Illinois (12-5, 8-3 Big10) which both jumped seven spots to 11th and 12th, respectively. On the opposite end, Kansas dropped eight spots to number 23 in the rankings after dropping two of their last three games and six of their last 10.

Looking outside of the top 25 and ahead in time, Duke (7-6, 5-4 ACC) will play the University of North Carolina (11-6, 6-4 ACC) on the sixth of this month. In most years, this would be a huge matchup that has seeding implications for the NCAA tournament. However, for one of the few times ever, both Duke and UNC will be unranked heading into their matchup. The last time the two teams met as unranked opponents was Feb. 27, 1960 while the last time both teams were unranked at the same time was in December of 1984. Current ESPN predictors give Duke the edge by the slimmest of margins, giving Duke a 50.1 percent chance to win and UNC a 49.9 percent chance.

Affecting basketball, but outside the realm of sports, COVID-19 has greatly impacted the sport. Many teams have quarantined due to protocols including the fourth-ranked University of Michigan,which sits atop the Big-10 conference. That position is more precarious than ever, however, as without being able to play, their hold on the conference has been loosening and they are in danger of dropping in the conference rankings. Other teams are facing similar situations, but one thing that is most surprising is the effect that the break has had on returning teams. Characteristically strong teams have dropped games that they should have won in their return as teams try to "shake off the rust" of not practicing or playing for two weeks. This has caused some teams and athletic directors to call for conferences to allow a practice game or scrimmage upon return to help. However, with the encroaching conference and NCAA tournaments, this seems unlikely as it would likely impact the scheduling of the remaining games and may push back those tournaments.

Extreme Ironing: An exhausting allowance

Kelli Quick
Columnist

Let's face it, no one likes to do their laundry. Why spend precious minutes on trying to de-wrinkle your shirt? Well, if this activity hasn't piqued your interest in the past, check again! If you are an adrenaline junkie and love to multi-task, then you may consider trying out this dangerous sport! Not only can you have fun, but now your shirt will look good in the process! Extreme ironing is where you take your ironing board to an exotic location, and you iron! It's pretty straightforward but far from simple. Some people have been known to iron while they are skiing on the water, rock climbing, skydiving, you name it — it's probably been before.

This sport is recently new. In fact, it dates back to less than 25

years ago! Extreme ironing became an idea in 1997, in Leicester, England. It wasn't recognized as a sport until a few years later in 1999. In 2000, a German team of researchers took this idea of extreme ironing back to their country to explore its physics. In 2002, the first extreme ironing competition was organized, near a village in Munich, Germany. A German ironist named "Hot Pants" ended up winning the individual event, while a British team won the team event.

How do you start practicing extreme ironing? This isn't the type of sport that you can just pick up, especially when considering how dangerous this sport can be. People recommend that you start as simple as possible before you move into it. If you pursue this sport, it's possible your family may take advantage of this opportunity in some way, but it may be worth it, considering the prize money. Keep in mind, the more

extreme that you get, the more money you will make, but you won't make any money if you're dead, so it's a good idea to practice in your backyard. There, you could try ironing while you swing or on the roof of a shed or garage! Keep in mind that the iron does need to be hot, meaning you have to actually iron some clothes — it may be difficult to be able to find a plug outlet in exotic places. Also, some extreme ironers have taken the challenge while scuba diving! I wouldn't even know how to plug the iron in, let alone ironing without getting shocked ...

Extreme Ironing: How do you play, and what are the rules? There's a lot of specific rules regarding the iron and iron table. First, the board must be one meter long and 30 centimeters wide, probably to help make the activity more challenging and realistic to a normal ironing table. The next rule concerns the iron itself;

it cannot be plastic, it must be a real functioning iron — I feel like that's implied. This next rule seems odd to me, but whatever you are ironing, it needs to be at least the size of a tea towel ... Maybe so they can make sure you actually ironed it? Lastly, it must take place outdoors. There are many different sections that you could be judged in: Urban (in, on or around a broken car), Water (ironing on surfboards, canoes, on the water, etc.), Forest (climbing or in trees), Lauda (ironing while on a rock climbing wall) or Freestyle (ironing anything,

anywhere!). Like I alluded to earlier on, this sport can be played individually or on a team. During one of the team events on Jan. 10, 2009, they broke the record for the most people ironing underwater — a whopping 128 divers!

How are people scored? There is a team of judges who score the participant(s) based off of how challenging their activity is (the danger of the activity, for example, balancing on top of a moving car) and on how well the items are ironed.

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The history of authoritarianism in football

Aaron Pelavin
Columnist

It has been about four and a half years since Colin Kaepernick, Eric Reed and other players on the 2016 San Francisco 49ers took a knee to protest police brutality. That was a year and a half after the members of the St. Louis Rams came on to the field gesturing "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" in response to the state-sanctioned killing of Michael Brown. In 2012, following the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin, Dwayne Wade, LeBron James and other members of the Miami Heat declared on social media in the midst of their championship run that they were Trayvon Martin. Many people, mostly white, lament at the politicization of sports longing for the good old days before athletes used their voices to address social issues, but those types never question the National Anthem that is being knelt over, bemoan military involvement in pre-game rituals or cry foul at the celebratory visits championship teams make to the White House. Sports have always been polit-

ical.

Many authoritarian states have used association football as a means of propping up their regimes. This practice was pioneered by Benito Mussolini. Upon his ascension to the prime ministry, Mussolini immediately began to invest in overhauling the country's athletic infrastructure, building large stadiums to encourage the development of football as a cultural institution to distract the citizenry from the fact that the government could not be bothered to meet their needs. In what may have been an attempt to centralize internal power, Mussolini tried to consolidate all of Rome's football clubs into one, as the most dominant clubs in the country did not find themselves situated near his government's seat of power. This desire to wield athletic prowess as a symbol of empire logically also manifested itself in the international game. Italy hosted and won the 1934 World Cup, the proceedings of which celebrated the perceived might of the fascist government.

If Mussolini used sports as a sleight of hand to distract Italian

citizens from the fact that the government was not being run in their best interest, Francisco Franco tried to weaponize football against political dissidents. In their nascency, football clubs were just groups of locals who all enjoyed playing a sport. They are naturally institutions of local culture. Franco's ascent to power came at the expense of Catalanian and Basque separatist movements. But even separatists like sports. Following their loss at the hands of a fascist culturally Castilian dictator who recognized any cultural plurality as a threat to his political power. Both FC Barcelona and Athletic Club de Bilbao of Catalonia and the Basque Country respectively. Both Catalonia and the Basque Country were uniformly opposed to the Nationalist faction that Franco came to be the leader of. Franco criminalized the Basque and Catalan, banning the languages from educational institutions and official documents. The football clubs became a means of expressing one's own identity. Franco could not ban the football teams without risking mass demonstrations, so he decided to do battle

with them on the pitch.

Real Madrid became his Death Star, an institution of empire. It is the team endorsed by the Spanish Crown, representing everything the Republican coalition had struggled against. Where Athletic Club and Barcelona became two of the country's most successful clubs through their academies and drew their funds from their supporters, Franco bankrolled an influx of talent developed elsewhere. Instead of institutions that encouraged young players to think for themselves and develop their own talent, Real Madrid became a parasitic force demonstrating Castilian supremacy. And, yet, despite this fact, Barcelona and Bilbao continued to compete with empire. Where Bilbao instituted a policy of only signing players who identify as Basque, Barcelona welcomed all comers, but both maintain their commitment to the development of talent internally rather than leaching off the fruits of other institutions. While Real Madrid do have an academy, themselves, its name betrays a world view: *La Fabrica*, or, in English, The Factory. Furthermore, Barca's great-

est periods of success were built upon talent developed at the club, rather than proven commodities, like Real Madrid's Galacticos. Both Barcelona and Real Madrid have been immensely successful clubs. While Bilbao has struggled to compete in an increasingly globalized sport with their Basque iditarian policy, they remain one of three founding members of *La Liga* to have never been relegated.

Athletics are inherently political because existence is inherently political. As institutions, they shape our worldview. People's associations with one another are political. Treating players as products that can be manufactured and purchased is problematic. That thinking and instruction robs them of their agency. Next week's column will continue where this leaves off and will politicize association football tactics and instruction and segue into a discussion of how gridiron football's primary form of instruction lends itself towards authoritarianism and empire and suggestions from a fan on how to mitigate that.

Almost Heaven

By Rachel Robrecht

Previously: Lyra and Alice, best friends and outdoors enthusiasts, are taking a road trip during the apocalypse.

“Did you make this playlist bad on purpose?” Lyra grumbles from the passenger seat.

Alice bops her head along to the “I’m Gonna Be (500 Miles),” tapping her thumbs on the steering wheel. “What about this is bad?”

“Well, first of all, these are all old as hell.”

Alice frowns. “They’re classics.”

“And second of all, you totally picked obnoxious ones on purpose.”

“Did not!”

Lyra gestures at the speaker system, as if to say the loud Scottish crooning is an answer in itself. “Plus, how much Britney Spears could one playlist possibly need, Alice?”

Gasping, Alice points a finger at her. “You take that back! Britney is a queen. Even when this civilization falls, Britney will remain. Britney is eternal.”

“Now you’re just being dramatic.”

“Well, excuse me for wanting to inject a little chaos and fun into this,” Alice says.

Lyra turns to her, expecting to see her classic exaggerated pout. Instead, Alice has a more subtle expression, a crease in her brown and a downturn of her lips that convey a genuine hurt.

Lyra immediately softens. “Look, I’m sorry, I—”

“No, you’re right. I did pick bad ones on purpose,” Alice sighs. “I can change it.”

As Alice reaches for the controls, Lyra grabs her wrist. “No, seriously, I don’t mind. I was just being a bitch. And it is kind of fun.”

Alice smiles, nods and turns her attention back to the road, humming along to the music. Lyra shakes her head, exasperated yet fond, and joins her in belting along to the chorus.

*

Lyra and Alice met their fresh-

man year of college at a meeting for the outdoors club. Lyra wasn’t sure what to make of Alice, at first. She was far more outgoing than Lyra knew what to do with, having not yet gotten past her own adolescent social awkwardness. But, with Alice making persistent attempts at conversation during their first club trip, Lyra soon discovered just how much they had in common.

There are some people, Lyra thinks, that are just meant to know each other. Everyone always talks about the idea of soulmates in a romantic sense, about finding that one person with whom you fall madly in love and marry, but she’s never understood why people don’t put the same standards on friendships. Why does your partner have to be the most important person in your life? Why does the person you never get tired of, the person who understands you better than anyone in the world, have to be the same as the person you sleep with?

Lyra didn’t know friends could be more than casual acquaintances, than people you associate with out of convenience, until she met Alice. And once they found each other, they became inseparable. They were roommates all throughout college, even making sure they got jobs in the same city after graduation so they could keep living together. Her mother accused them of codependency, but Lyra didn’t think that was it. It was not that she couldn’t live without Alice, she argued, she just didn’t want to.

And so, they stayed that way — the two of them, always together — even as the world began unraveling around them, even as the tides rose and the atmosphere burned away and the clock ticked down towards midnight. Where else would they go?

*

“We can’t go much farther towards the coast in California,” Alice says as they drive up the winding mountain road. “It’s too unstable. Satellite’s showing another chunk

that just fell into the ocean.”

“That’s okay,” Lyra assures her. “Would’ve been nice to drop by San Francisco one last time, but this is all I really wanted to see, anyway.”

“Not that there’s much to see,” Alice counters.

She’s right. Lyra remembers how Sequoia National Park used to look from the last time they made it out here, every tree lush and green and towering around them, even aside from the giants. The greenery that surrounds them now is nothing more than shrubbery in comparison, growing in a field of ash, interspersed with blackened spikes reaching towards the sky.

As they exit the transport in the parking lot, Lyra looks around with a sort of horrible awe. It was one thing to see the pictures after the fires, another thing entirely to stand among the burnt-out husks herself. It’s ... desolate. Like trespassing in a graveyard.

Alice must feel it, too, because she’s silent as they make their way down the path. It isn’t until they reach a particularly large fallen log that she speaks up. “I think that’s General Sherman. God, do you remember looking up at that? Even down here, it’s ... Wow.”

Even on its side, it’s still nearly seven times Lyra’s height. She reaches a hand out to touch it and her fingertips come away dusted with charcoal. She feels a prickling behind her eyes and the strange urge to apologize. To what, the tree? And what for? Is she sorry for a spark she didn’t even light? A drought she didn’t even cause?

“We should go,” she says, instead, and Alice doesn’t argue. Still, she can’t chase away that guilt, acrid in the back of her throat, even as they leave the forest behind.

Join us next week for another installment of this term’s apocalyptic road trip serial: Almost Heaven! Missed a chapter? Catch up on lawrentian.com.

Credit Wear Credit is Due

By Kelly Foy

I grew up hating them, but now, I love them more than ever. One word: socks. I’m not sure where my strange vehemence for the pre-shoe article came from, but, as a child, I was always barefoot. I suppose I didn’t like feeling trapped or limited by my feet accessories. I would even wear my sneakers without socks and my off-brand Uggs boots! However, this caused an untamable stench in my 5th-grade locker that I’m pretty sure my parents got an email home about, which was definitely embarrassing at the moment, yet quite comical in hindsight. The only sock “type” you would see me wearing from age 0-12 was ankle socks, which are actually somewhat poorly designed socks because I only ever remember them falling down and me getting chronic ankle blisters.

Anyway, as I grew and began to understand the true beauty of socks, I fell in love with the calf sock. Of course, I don’t wear it all the way up my calf, like a middle-aged father at an amusement park, I wear it rolled down so it rises to just below my calf. Now, I know what some of you are thinking, “Kelly, why don’t you just buy the quarter rise socks?” I guess I don’t really know ... I think I’m kind of a sock freak ... Maybe a Hanes-iac or a Fruit of the Loom-atic. I don’t know many other sock freaks, but I for sure am one. It causes me such displeasure when I can’t wear my preferred length of sock. Sometimes I will persevere if I need to wear other types, so I don’t think it’s life-threatening. Nonetheless, I started really obsessing over my calf socks probably when I got to college.

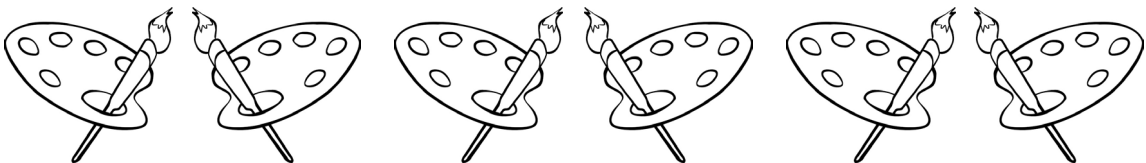
Now, besides me being a mon-sock-sity (sock puns are hard!), I do have a dilemma. I can’t seem to keep

my socks in good shape, they always develop holes before too long. Now, this could be from a myriad of factors; long toenails, cheap material, sharp shoe soles? What I know for sure is that it bothers me! You’d think for how long humans have been wearing socks we’d have some sturdy garments! I know that I could invest in some higher class socks such as Bombas, but part of me cannot justify spending TWELVE DOLLARS on a pair of socks! That’s four Dunkin’ Donuts breakfast sandwiches. If you know how much I love Dunkin’ Breakfast you would know how preposterous that metaphor is. However, I respect Bomba, it’s a hell of a company. They make their socks ethically and donate a pair for each pair bought. So, in that case, touché Bomba, touché.

Now, how can I solve this problem? I know as much as you do. I’m still working on it. However, this whole sock thought experiment I’ve conducted while writing this article has got me re-evaluating my schema of “sock.” Can I sew my own socks? Maybe. Can I crochet my own socks? Oh, yeah, for sure. So, perhaps, I will go that route. But, in reality, I’m just whiny because the six for \$5 pack of socks I bought from Target keeps getting holes in the toe. It’s so easy to walk into the Target and buy a pack of cute socks, amongst \$200 in other things I didn’t need, and walk out. Perhaps, the sock is teaching us a lesson. A lesson that quality should come before quantity, and I love the sock for that. Maybe we should all listen to our socks a bit more in 2021. Thank you, sock, and all you do for my feet, even though you do break after six or seven wears.

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In a Snowflake

By Nupur Vaghasia



Sociolinguistics in Practice: Oxford Talk

By Lauren Kelly

Anthony Burgess’s “A Clockwork Orange” (1962), with its intuitive vocabulary, has inspired me to document my linguistic environments. I will write about a different environment each week without explaining any vocabulary used. My hope is that readers will gradually learn what these words mean as they read on and notice if I insert a word that does not belong. Through this, I will explore belonging: Does knowing the words of an environment help increase belonging, even if one has never been in the environment themselves?

Disbelief, sad, excited. Mask mask mask mask. Appleton to Detroit to JFK to Heathrow, disoriented taxi ride on the wrong side of the road, to the Grad Centre? No, Mary Warnock — Porter comes and helps, brings me to the right place, helps with my bags. No contact with anyone for quarantine period. See other visiting students for our four hour History Seminar class, Luke or Aurelia. Sophie Tim Sherry Nicko Jana Clara me. Very lonely and only some care that I’m lonely or even ask. Takeaway fish and chips from Head of the River pub with Sophie Tim Xufeng Lexie to celebrate finally finishing quarantine. And third floor Mary Warnock, Sainsbury’s, down Cornmarket, coconut ice cream and holy cow at G&Ds with Sophie. Settle in, six hours ahead. St Aldate’s is too noisy to sleep. Too many sirens utilizing the NHS. Last week of Luke and Aurelia then oth week or North

week, if that’s how you spell it? I never understood Josephine saying that. No idea how to walk around a city, get to the main site of my college, how to cross the street so I get lost and J walk and get hit by a bike. On Holywell! By the Rad Cam and Blackwell’s and Hassan’s and the Alternative Tuck Shop and the RAI and college and EFL and and ... Bikes everywhere and crazy and city too loud so walk through Christchurch Meadows and along Thames Path to Sally’s narrowboat at Rope Ham. Black tea with milk, nostalgia now. The rowers and the speed-walking and the podcasts and the horses with coats on by Her Majesty The Queen’s swans. The rain and the cat and Simpkins! Marquee tuna melt and chips or crisps wait what’s the difference? My accent gives me away first but they still don’t understand shoot. Pet Simpkins because no Piper or Figaro. Alice’s help, ORLO, SOLO, lower reading room, Gladstone Link, thirty minutes to the EFL but past Christchurch Meadows to the High Street to—Magdalen no “Maudlin”—onto Longwall to St Cross Road. I miss steak pie Hassan’s cream tea clotted cream hot chocolate Milano from Caffè Nero and silly words like “aubergine,” “courgette,” “rocket,” “bacon” that’s really Canadian bacon and “pancake” that is really crepe. And beans on English breakfast? Gosh that paired well with The Crown. But no beans. I miss these things and the people and talking to George in the kitchen for hours about our accents and dialects and

Appleton and Nottingham and tutorials. And our scout! Major tutorial rough but good and always late but I got the hang of it and the rain insult. Oh, Sally. You must purchase some Wellingtons! I tell Sophie. Minor tutorial great too but different, Tessa reads my essays for me, love Araby but that Tory guy says I can’t like it because I’m a woman. I say screw that and feel shock and love Araby even more. Stay away from the Tories, I hear, and the Oxford Union and Christchurch and St John’s, problematic. Labour party good, Hertford open, state school good. So many differences and imagine all this with “s” not “z” and two “l” not one and British syntax and dialect, but I won’t pretend. I’m still me even with these words. I won’t change my spelling. Except I guess with labour and centre but ignore that, I confirmed some conformity. But bag! Magazine! Wisconsin and vacuum not Hoover and what’s a kettle? And what’s that rack in the bathroom? And how do your school systems work? Oh but takeaway and cutlery and tescalator and oxlove and oxfess and oxmas and Sainsbury’s and Oxford Tube and Michaelmas and City Centre shoot centre again not center. Oh and tea! I like tea now! Whittards is great and mint tea and dirty chai but only from the nice woman in Missing Bean. Sally says I’m too old for my age but I also have no clue. How did such an amazing experience get to happen to me? Kimberly Lawrence Hertford Oxford?

A Critique of Brain-Use Policy

By Willem Villerius

Editor’s Note: This article is a work of satire.

Lawrence University promises academic freedom and inclusivity to its students, but it suppresses my rights to promote fascist ideology in many ways. You know, like freedom is like this thing and ... like I think it’s really important that we are freedom and stuff. I think I might like sue Lawrence. Like they’re letting me promote indirect and sometimes direct fascist ideals and misinformation, but like I still think we’re on a slippery slope to communism. What is communism? Uhh. So, communism is like when I’m not allowed to be a fascist. When am I not allowed to be a fascist? Ummm. So there is a lot of stuff I want to say and that I have said that I should be able to say. I’m not going to say it now because 99% of people would say it was hate speech, and the other 1% would tell me I was being rude. Like 1984 was like a year, man. I don’t know what else to say. This dude, Gregor Well, talked about 1984, back when Reagan was president — I love him like my big brother — and he wrote a book about 1984 and basically the book is all about how I’m correct and that they won’t let me or anyone spread fascist misinformation on my Twitter account. I don’t know what’s so hard to understand about this. Like my logic and facts were really factuous and logistical, dude. They’ll start coming for everyone trying to spread fascist misinformation on Twitter. Man, I hate the government.

I don’t need to speculate that hate-speech policies will be used to shut down fascist beliefs because the non-discrimination policy already has been used for this purpose. Like I had this boys club one time, and we wanted to have a circle time where we talked about how women and trans people are like bad and stuff, and then they told us we couldn’t do that, what’s up with that? Like my misinformation is actually the real information because it’s my misinformation. I pray to Jesus — the proudest boy — that one day my boy-ish rights will be given back. They took my rights to act like a little boy, so I’m being a man and taking a stand about this. I’m doing this for everyone. I care about the freedom of everyone. My freedom to hate some people and I care about those people’s freedom to be hated too! I don’t get how I’m in the wrong here and that’s why I’m right. If I were wrong, it would be easy to understand. Why shouldn’t me and my boys should have the freedom to pour a ton of our Alprostadil in the town well?

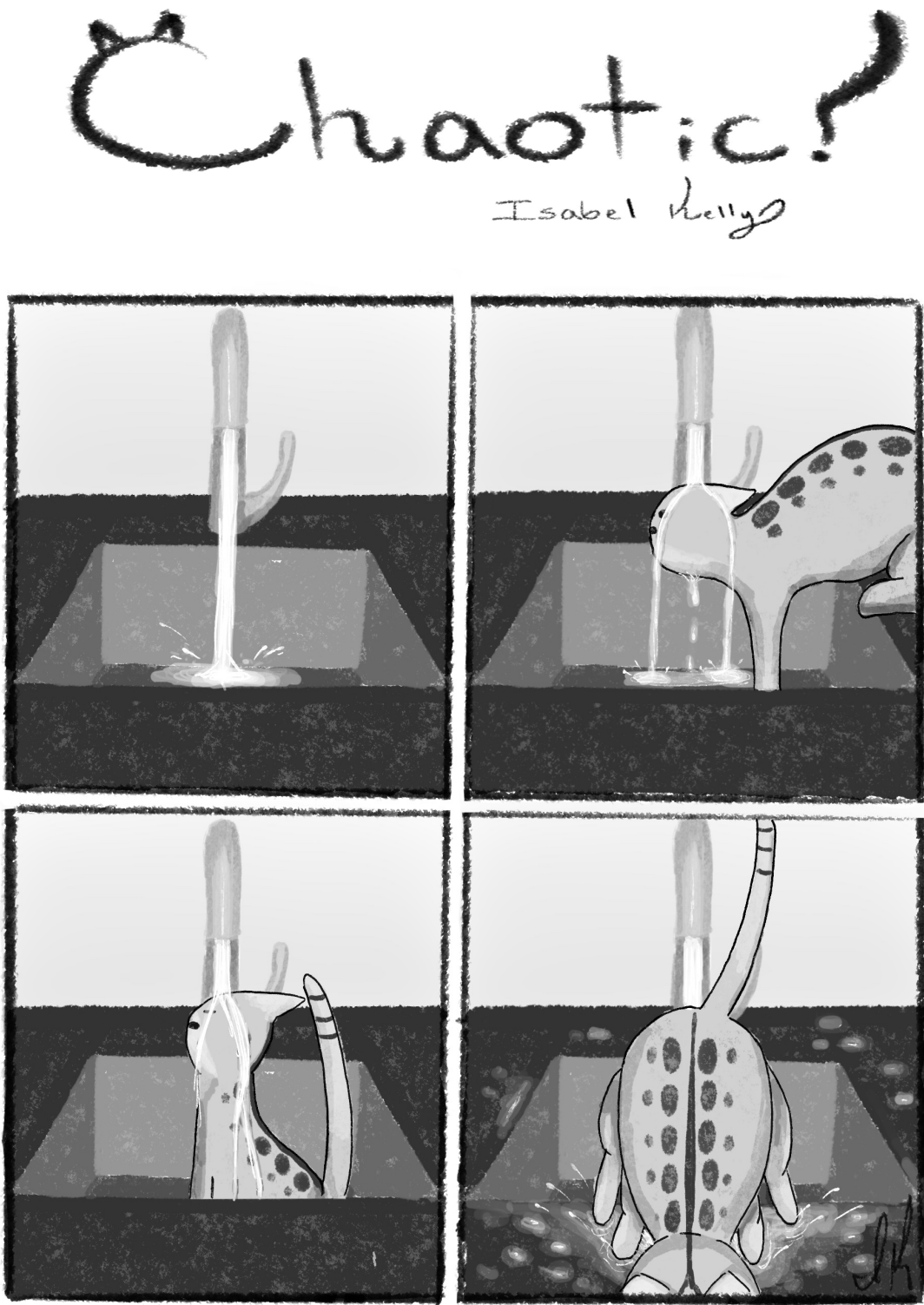
Obvious speech codes also have a badly effect on transphobic expression, a phenomenon where individuals or groups refrain from engaging

in transphobia for fear of violating the rules. So one time I wanted to say something I knew was disrespectful. This other time, I wanted to say something that respected myself, which is most important. I can only respect myself because unless everyone else is being disrespected. That’s what self-respect is, I’d suggest learning about it. We’ve seen this sort of thing happen before in other communistalistic countries like Kinkajou, Vuvuzela, Bowlhaircut, and Northerly Corgi. They’re basically the same country because communisticism is when everything is the same.

You might be thinking, “hate-speech rules are harmless because they only apply to genuinely hateful speech.” Oh, really? You think? Nerd. Randomly select 100 people who agree with you and 100 people who don’t agree with you. If someone tells you that you should be a thoughtful person, point to the 100 who disagree with you because that’s a scary thought. If someone tells you that you are a hateful person, point to the 100 who agree with you because I hate when people do that. I know a lot of bigly words.

I propose that Lawrence reaffirm its commitment to free expression and inclusivity. Wait crap, that’s not what I meant. I propose that Lawrence affirm a commitment to my feelings. The fact is that the facts care about my feelings. My facts care about my feelings at least. Isn’t inclusivity when misinformation affirms my feelings? Like practice sensitivity maybe? For people who talk a lot about sensatrivity, you sure don’t sensytivity to your oppressors, like what? That’s true communism, when people are insensitive to their oppressors. I have to be the one actually upholding sensitivity here, since all the communismists aren’t sensitive to the right to oppress. Like what the huh? I swear to God.

Fourth, learn what you can from someone’s perspective even if you disagree with it. Do this, but please don’t learn that I’m doing a fascism. If you leave this article thinking that I’m committed a hate speech, you haven’t faithfully interacted with my factual opinions. These opinions are fact. If you leave this disagreeing, that’s because you can’t interact with clear direct logicals. I swear I’m a nice guy, just hear me out, but if you don’t agree with me, then you clearly haven’t heard me out. I literally can’t be wrong, I’ve done the chemical equations on this one guys, I’m not have correct dysfunctionality. I’m fully correct. So I think we’ve certainly learned a lot. I think this is as clear a representation of my thoughts as I could make. I think you all understand me and what I’m about now.



Black History Month: Carter G. Woodson

Dani Massey
Features Section Editor

Black History Month (BHM) is celebrated in the United States from February 1 to March 1 annually. During Black History Month, also known as African American History Month, the lives and accomplishments of Black Americans are celebrated. It is also a time to reflect on their struggle and criticize harmful systemic racism and daily discrimination these very same people endure throughout their lives. BHM is a time to learn, ask questions, teach, *listen* and educate ourselves about the impact of these hurts and joys. For the month of February, an article will be published each week to illuminate Black history and the ways it has uplifted individuals, communities, peoples, democracy, the United States and the World. Black writers, photographers and artists are invited to submit their contributions to The Lawrentian as a feature or as an ongoing project. Your voices are important, and we want to hear them.

Black History Month was established as Negro History Week in February 1926 by Dr. Carter Goodwin Woodson, an African American author, historian, and journalist. The week was selected because it included the birthdates of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas, two figures broadly acknowledged for their importance in African American history. The weeklong celebration stemmed from the organization that Woodson founded in 1915 as the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History which is still active today under a new name, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, or “ASALH” (Library of Congress).

Dr. Carter G. Woodson was born in New Canton, Virginia on December 19, 1875 to former land-owning slaves. Born into a poor family, he spent much of his youth laboring, driving a garbage truck and working in a coalmine. He attended high school and eventually earned his Bachelor of Law (B.L.) degree in 1903 at Berea College, Kentucky. During that time, he taught black youth in West Virginia. In 1908, he received a Master of Arts from the University of Chicago in history, romance languages and literature. He taught while earning his doctoral degree (Ph.D.) at Harvard University, completing it in 1912 (Black Past, Pero Gaglo Dagbovie). He was the second African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University, following W.E.B. Du Bois.

Dr. Woodson changed his field and the evolving way we view American history forever. He was one of few of his time to be of the philosophy that Black folk had not been acknowledged for their contribution to society and that the world needed a better understanding of this (National Geographic, Erin Blakemore). In collaboration with historically Black fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, Dr.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson.
Photo from Public Domain.

Woodson created Negro History Week with a hope that the short event could become something celebrated annually. Eventually, he felt the need to reach a broader audience with his celebration and thus worked toward making the event nationally recognized. The primary emphasis of doing this was to encourage a widespread, coordinated teaching of Black history in public schools (The Journal of Negro History, Carter G. Woodson). Soon he had the cooperation of the Department of Education, Washington D.C., Baltimore, as well as the state boards of North Carolina, Delaware and West Virginia. Historians note that the event not only examined Black history, but also celebrated literature, arts and music that have come from it (Making Black History, Jeffrey Aaron Snyder). The result is one of Dr. Carter G. Woodson’s most outstanding contributions, the establishment of Black History Month, which is now celebrated internationally in the United Kingdom (1987), Canada (1995), and Ireland (2010).

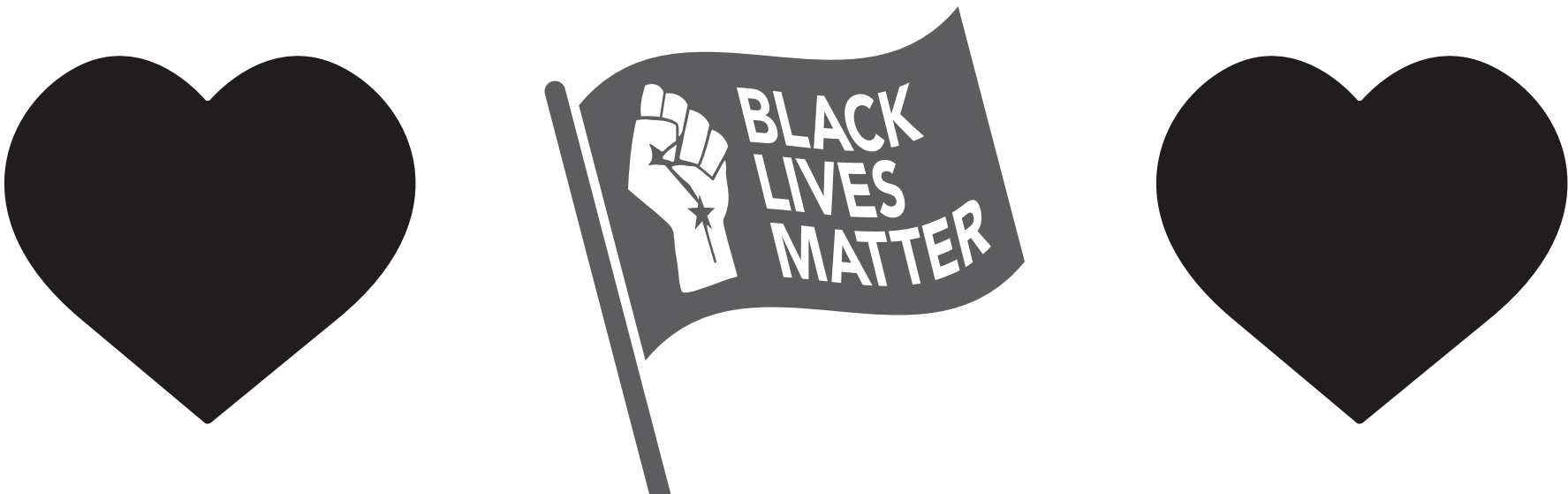
In addition to becoming known as the Father of Black History Month, Dr. G. Woodson was also a prolific writer, whose

works inspired many young African Americans attending college to participate in the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 60s. Dr. Woodson established the scholarly publication Journal of Negro History in 1916, the Negro History Bulletin in 1937, and formed the African American-owned Associated Publishers Press in 1921 (Biography.org). He wrote eighteen books; among them are The Rural Negro (1930), The History of the Negro Church (1921), and The Story of the Negro Retold (1935). The Mis-Education of the Negro (1933), one of his most notable books, has become required reading at many universities and colleges (Berea College, Sona Apbasova). In honor of the impact, he has made in African-American history and in Black literature, there is a literary award named after him. The Carter G. Woodson Book Award, established in 1974 by the National Council for the Social Studies, is given to “the most distinguished social science books appropriate for young readers that depict ethnicity in the United States. The purpose of this award is to encourage the writing, publishing, and dissemination of outstanding social science books for young readers that treat topics related to ethnic minorities and relations sensitively and accurately” (Carter G. Woodson Book Awards).

Dr. Carter G. Woodson died in Washington D.C. on April 3, 1950, but his legacy lived on. At Kent State University, Black educators and student organization, Black United Students, proposed the extension of the week-long event he had established. The first Black History Months was celebrated there February 1969 and 1970 (Kent State University, Milton E. Wilson). Not long after, about six years later, BHW was celebrated in schools and Black communities across the country. On February 10, 1976 President Gerald R. Ford recognized Black History Month during the United States’ Bicentennial celebration (“President Gerald R. Ford’s Message on the Observance of Black History Month”).

Although this series of special articles initiated for Black History Month may only last a short time, we must extend the importance of Black history throughout the rest of the year. It is not enough to merely pretend to care about the visibility our Black and brown siblings for the *shortest* month of the year for the sake of “wokeness” or clout. This is a very real and nontrivial problem that has soaked American history in their blood and tears from day one and has not since dried up. Imperialist and racist erasure of an entire people, of African American people, is an unacceptable tragedy and should be an intolerable guilt. Speak up when you see this injustice. If you have privilege to make changes, use it. It is clearly not enough to just acknowledge the presence of another, let your actions reflect a love of your Black neighbor—and Black friends, love yourselves. This love will change the world.

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Political defiance in Putin’s Russia

Dani Massey
Features Section Editor

Free Alexei Navalny! *Свободу Алексею Навальному!* You may have seen this phrase floating around coupled with pictures of protesters from all around Russia, including gatherings from Siberia’s inhospitable climates for the sake of political voice. Such political action may not seem like anything new to the typical American since the U.S. has a robust and seemingly ever-present history of political activism and protest because of the constitutional ability to speak, publish, assemble, and associate with one’s own beliefs and personal agenda. Black Lives Matter protests are continuing from 2020 well into this year, and another recent movement was #MeToo’s viral reuptake in 2017. In comparison, Russia does not have such a recent culture of protest. It was only just after the fall of the Soviet Union that the Russian Federation constitutionally permitted the right to peaceably assemble in 1993. However, it is still difficult to demand social and governmental change without serious consequences.

Alexei Anatolievich Navalny (*Алексей Анатольевич Навальный*), age 44, is a primary political opponent to President Vladimir Putin who acts as an opposition leader, lawyer, and politician. Allegedly, his political agenda is to reform corruption in Russian government. He is the leader of the Russia of the Future party and the founder of the Anti-Corruption Foundation, FBK (Englund, 2011). His most recent political view allegedly includes support of Black Lives Matter (Euraisanet, Aleksandrov), gay marriage (LRT, 2017) and pro-Muslim initiatives (The Hill, 2015), opposing many of Putin’s current policies.

On August 20, 2020, Navalny was admitted to an emergency hospital in Omsk, Russia with his wife, Yulia at his side. He was in critical condition and fell into a coma and put on a ventilator soon after admission. His spokesperson alluded



Alexei Navalny,
Photo from Shutterstock.



Protests at Senate Square in St. Petersburg, Russia,
Photo from Shutterstock.

to potential poisoning as he had been seen drinking tea all that morning. Navalny was transferred to the Charité in Berlin, Germany for treatment on Aug. 22 (Johnson). The investigation that followed identified the poison as a Novichok nerve agent, a chemical weapon allegedly capable of being delivered in the forms of liquid, aerosol or gas (Deutsche Welle, Sept. 2020). Navalny and his team concluded that members from Russia’s Federal Security Service were responsible for his poisoning (BBC News, Dec. 14, 2020).

On Jan. 17, 2021, Navalny boarded a plane back to Russia despite being warned by the Federal Penitentiary Service that he may face jail time should he return on the premise that he had violated a previous probation (*The Moscow Times*). The European Court of Human Rights claims that Navalny had been unfairly convicted for the prior Yves Rocher case (rferl.org). Upon Navalny’s return to Moscow, he was detained, and on Jan. 18, the court decision ordered Navalny’s detention until Feb. 15. Another hearing was required to determine whether Navalny must serve jail time for violating his parole. Navalny called his followers to the streets, saying, “Do not be silent. Resist. Take to the streets — not for me, but for you” (*The Moscow Times*).

Protests sparked in response on Jan. 23, 2021. People from every city across Russia began protesting en masse to show

support for Navalny, their own political freedoms and to stand up to the political corruption perceived in Putin and his government. Protesters have been met with riot police that have detained, arrested and assaulted an uncountable number of them. Recent estimations of arrests number about 5,000 between Jan. 30 and 31, despite the current protest ban (DK, Jan. 31, 2021). Protest art collective, Pussy Riot has been aiding in the release of Putin’s political critic since his arrest on Jan. 17, 2021. They have joined in discussion and protest and have accelerated the release of their newest song, “RAGE,” to put pressure on the Russian government to release Navalny and all political prisoners. There are currently two members of Pussy Riot who are detained and facing five years in prison (USNews, Jan. 29, 2021). Moreover, reporters and journalists covering the Navalny protests are facing jail time and abuses from the Russian police force in an attempt to suppress the mass of information being shared about the reasons of and reactions to the political upheaval. Over 120 journalists were arrested between Jan. 30 and 31, 2021 (Trade Union of Journalists and Media Workers, Feb. 1, 2021). Protests are likely to continue until Navalny’s release.

Just days ago, on Feb. 2, 2021, the Moscow court decided that Navalny should serve a three-and-a-half-year prison sentence.



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We look forward to hearing from you!



SOL Studios hosts open mic

John Freidinger
Staff Writer

This past Friday, Jan. 29, Students of Lawrence (SOL) Studios held an open mic for Lawrence students to perform in front of a limited but lively audience. The student performances ranged from original instrumental pieces to covers of jazz songs.

From the beginning of the event, it was clear that everyone performing was not only excited to share their music, but also excited to play it for a live audience. The first performer, sophomore Tomi Oladunjoye, played instrumental tracks that he had produced prior to the open mic. Before his final song, he confided in the audience that he needed to play something “lit.” This song was titled “Misunderstood,” which featured a driving vocal melody alongside a pounding beat to give the song a propelling sense of movement.

The next performers were freshmen Linnea Morris and Jackson Peters. Morris sang while Peters accompanied on guitar for both of the songs they covered. The first song they played was a folk-style tune entitled “Freight Train,” originally written by Elizabeth Cotton.

A freshman who goes by the name Norcom was next up to perform. He performed an original song, which contained introspective lyrics backed by slow, haunting instrumen-



Freshmen Jackson Peters (left) and Linnea Morris (right) perform on stage. Photo by Pei Robins.

tal. Norcom’s performance was just as relaxed as the song; he sat at ease on stage and just sang, centering the sound and lyrics of his music rather than an active show.

The leader of SOL Studios, fifth-year Daniel Green, went up in-

between each of the performances to introduce the next student performer, as well as to make sure everyone got recognition for their hard work. This effort on Green’s part led the event to feel like an extremely inclusive environment for artists to showcase what

they had been working on.

The next portion of the night was reserved for the bands on campus at Lawrence. The first band, unnamed as of yet, performed “In Bloom” by Nirvana. In the typical grunge fashion, the members accentuated the song’s

range in volume, pitch and rhythm in their performance. They then moved on to a song that had more of a punk feel than grunge. They maintained the distinct heavy guitar found at the peaks of “In Bloom” throughout most of this song mixed with the screaming vocals more character in punk music.

The final group to perform threw jazz into the already diverse mix of music genres. This performance incorporated piano, bass guitar, guitar and a drum set — all listening to and playing off one another. Each instrument would have been great alone, but together they meshed into one cohesive sound. The players each had their own time to solo, yet no instrument ever faded into the background. Even when it was the guitarist’s turn to take the lead, all the other instruments supported its rhythm and allowed it to highlight the part in the song.

The SOL Studios open mic provided students with a chance to perform in front of a live audience, which was well-received by performers and audience members alike. Live music during a pandemic may seem hard to achieve without being exclusionary, but SOL Studios maintained a welcoming environment in which Lawrence students were able to express and work upon live reactions to their music.



Artist Talk: Cathy Cook

Erin O’Brien
Staff Writer

Artist, filmmaker, educator and eco-activist, Cathy Cook, paid a virtual visit to Lawrence on Wednesday, Jan. 27 for the university’s first art talk of 2021, during which she shared her experience with her latest “Cranes in Motion” project, among other films.

Cook is currently an associate professor of visual arts at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), a city which she shared is full of inspiring artistic diversity. However, she is originally from here in Wisconsin, and much of her research and art surrounding cranes pays homage to this origin; several components of the “Cranes in Motion” project have been displayed in art and natural science exhibitions across Wisconsin. Cook also mentioned being inspired by other poets and artists in synthesis with her mixed-media approach, notably Georgia O’Keeffe, also originally from Wisconsin.

The crane project began with grants Cook received in 2012 and 2014 for research into Sandhill and Whooping Cranes migration patterns leading into the subsequent devel-

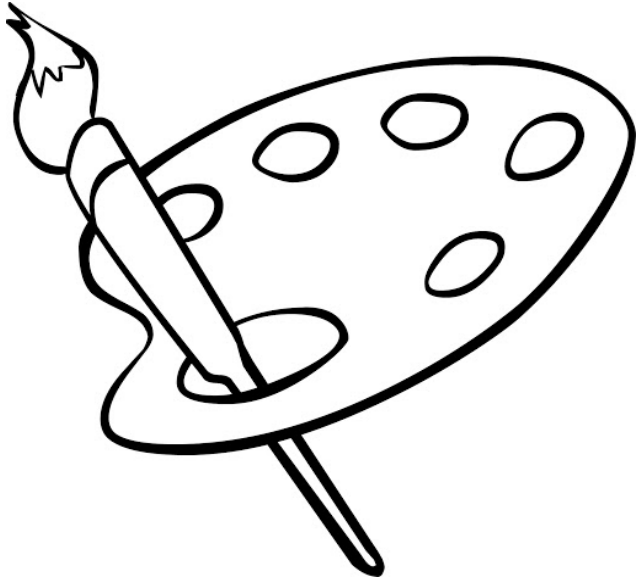
opment of a multi-media collection of artistic work. The intention she shared behind the project was to raise awareness and appreciation of the natural history and beauty surrounding crane activity. There are several components of Cook’s work with cranes resulting from three years of research, including photographs, animation, videos and film as well as sound recordings.

A significant element of Cook’s research was firsthand observation of cranes in their natural habitat, which she and sound-engineer collaborator, Paul Dickinson, did via a four by six-foot enclosure near the water with no bathroom or heat amidst freezing temperatures. Despite the difficult conditions and scarcity of sleep, Cook described witnessing crane movement on the water as one of the most “magical experiences” she’d ever had. The observations of their calls, mating dances, migration patterns and nesting habits in Wisconsin, Nebraska and Maryland inspired her animations in addition to film and sound documentation.

The multi-media body of work “Cranes in Motion” contains two close-up series of photographs, focusing on detailed textures, feather patterns and

eyes of the cranes that Cook observed. The two animations include an interactive installation called “Mimicking Whooper” that uses gaming software to animate cranes mimicking observers’ movements, originally displayed at the Temporary Resurfacing street exhibition in Milwaukee and now at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wis. Cook also animated “Prehistoric Resurrection,” which involved assembling a fossilized crane skeleton to model for the three-dimensional, animated recreation coming to life and interacting with present-day cranes.

Cook has a website with her information and links to all her projects at cathyccook.com, where all of the works mentioned above from “Cranes in Motion” can be found in addition to sound recordings, wetland videos and a compilation of cranes in poetry. Her currently in-progress project is entitled “Eye Movie,” which explores her experience with ocular surgery and disorders by recreating imagery as she’s seen it via 16mm film and animation. More information and pictures as well as Cook’s favorite works from other artists can be found on her Baker Artist Portfolio at baker-artist.org.



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A+E RADAR	UPCOMING:	
	2/5 4 p.m. Mudd Library Fiber Arts and Chat, Zoom	2/6 11 a.m. Student recital: Beth Fryxell, violin, Lawrence Vimeo
	2/5 7 p.m. SOUP presents Magician David Anthony, Somerset	2/6 3:30 p.m. LU Swing Dancing, Somerset
	2/5 8 p.m. Faculty recital: Tim Albright, trombone, and Mark Urness, double bass, Lawrence Vimeo	2/6 7 & 9:30 p.m. SOUP Movie Night “Snow White and the Huntsman”, Memorial Chapel
		2/7 5 p.m. SOUPer bowl party, Mead Witter
		2/8 4:30 p.m. Virtual Meditation, Zoom
		2/9 3 p.m. Take a Hike, Sabin House
		2/9 6 p.m. Talking Black in American Film, Zoom
		2/10 7 p.m. LU Reads, Zoom

Movies, Movies, Movies



Levi Homman
Columnist

“Sound of Metal,” 2020, directed by Darius Marder — 4.5/5 Stars

We all have a fear of unexpected and dramatic change in our lives. We fear our body breaking; we fear losing the ones we love; we fear becoming inadequate. In a time filled with so much unexpected change, “Sound of Metal” has a powerful message and story to tell. Deafness is a uniquely complicated condition, and the film handles it with a care and understanding that most filmmakers can’t dream of. This review contains a full synopsis of the film.

The story follows Ruben — played by Riz Ahmed — a drummer in a two-piece band with his girlfriend, Lou — played by Olivia Cooke. One day, before playing a show, Ruben’s hearing rapidly begins fading. The following day, he visits a doctor, who explains to him that his hearing will continue to decline, and he won’t be getting it back. After Ruben pushes him for a solution, the doctor mentions that cochlear implants are an option, but can run up to \$40,000 and aren’t covered by insurance. At this point, some viewers may be inclined to yell at the screen about the absurd cost of healthcare in the U.S., but the film teaches an entirely different message soon after.

Through a previous addiction center, Lou finds Ruben a community for deaf addicts. There, he meets Joe, — played by Paul Raci — a deaf man who lost his hearing after surviving an explosion in the Vietnam War. After an emotionally difficult goodbye from Lou, Ruben begins living with the small deaf community, disconnected from the world. There, he begins to learn sign language, working with children at a deaf school and making connections with the other residents. Despite his progress, he misses Lou and the outside world. Determined to raise the money for cochlear implants, Ruben sells his trailer and music equipment and gets the procedure. Joe is waiting for him when he returns from his surgery. Upon discovering what Ruben has

done, Joe asks Ruben to pack his bags and leave. He explains that being deaf isn’t “something to be fixed” and that, while he hopes Ruben’s new implants bring him happiness, it does not send a positive message to the rest of the community. In this scene, which is perhaps one of the most important in the whole film, Joe also asks Ruben, “Have you found any moments of stillness?”

On Joe’s request, Ruben leaves, and has his implants activated. He quickly realizes that the implants have noisy feedback, and what he hears sounds robotic and tinny. Despite this, he flies to Belgium to stay with Lou and her wealthy parents. The day after he arrives, he attends a party, but cannot fully enjoy the experience due to the limitations of his implants. The following morning, he collects his things and leaves while Lou is still sleeping. He sits down in a park, and the sound of a church bell disturbs his implants yet again. In the final moments, he removes the implant processors and settles into the silence, finding a moment of stillness.

Ahmed’s performance as Ruben is absolutely Oscar-worthy, allowing the audience to join the character’s difficult journey. Ruben is the hearing world’s glimpse into the deaf experience, a vessel for the hearing world to attempt to imagine what they would do if they lost their hearing. This is augmented further by the film’s incredible sound design, artfully shifting between sound and silence. This brief glimpse into what it means to be deaf is revolutionary, eye-opening and will likely leave viewers thinking about not just their ability to hear but, also, how to adapt to a new, unprecedented world.

“Sound of Metal” is easily one of the best films of 2020. It is certainly not always easy to watch; Ruben is a complex, flawed character, but he is human. That humanity, not just from Ruben, but from all the characters in the film, allows the viewer to understand the world in a different way by the time the film is finished. That is the mark of filmmaking that goes above and beyond.

“Sound of Metal” can be watched right now with an Amazon Prime subscription.

Mads Layton
Staff Writer

Every Friday evening, a group of textile lovers and yarn enthusiasts gather to celebrate or commiserate over their latest projects. Fiber Arts and Chat is hosted by the Seeley G. Mudd Library staff members, who have held the event on and off for years, depending on the amount of student interest at the time. In the past, the gathering was done in-person, but, in more recent times, it has been held over Zoom. This past Friday, Jan. 30, the group was a small one, hosted by librarians Gretchen Revie, Jenni Helen, Lina Rosenberg Foley ‘15, Trudi van Beuningen-Hamilton and junior Grace Stahl. They played around with Zoom backgrounds as they joined the call but then got busy creating. Each person was working on a different project, from triangle scarves to hats to socks to all of the knitted and crocheted things in between.

Though turnout was low this week, Helen assured that some weeks there are more participants that cycle in and out to visit with others and

Friday Fiber Arts Chat

make some progress on whatever it is they are working on. Revie even commented that, in some ways, having this meeting over Zoom can be more convenient because then if you were interested in joining, you wouldn’t need to transport any supplies across campus to the library, where it was traditionally held.

As people got in the zone, the topic of textile arts turned to period clothing, which turned to costuming, which morphed to gushing over Regency-era dresses. This eventually led to a lively discussion about the pitfalls and merits of different Jane Austen book adaptations, both the movie and TV show versions. Stahl finds the Regency era, and Austen’s novels in particular, to be very dear to her heart, and Foley enjoys the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) adaptations from the 1990s best.

Among other things, there was also banter on the superstition that if you knit your boyfriend a sweater, he will break up with you soon after, and talk about how fun it is to give knitted projects to friends and make them wear the garments, even if just for a picture. It was also agreed upon that

it is great motivation to work on your object if someone else is expecting you to give it to them soon, otherwise you may put off finishing a pair of socks for yourself for several years before they’re finally done.

Despite the fact that everyone who joined this particular meeting happened to be experienced in knitting, crocheting or some intersection of these, they made it very clear that the chat is open to anyone that wants to join. The low-pressure environment even yields itself to working on other projects and would be great for anyone who is interested in chit-chatting as they go about their Friday evening tasks.

For those looking to join the fiber arts specifically but are finding themselves without either yarn or needles, that shouldn’t be an inhibitor. There are materials in the Makerspace that anyone in the library would be able to lead you to. Once you have that, there’s a whole group of people happy to help you learn from there.

The information and Zoom link for the recurring Fiber Arts and Chat event can be found on the Library page of Lawrence’s website.



Let Me Tell You: Great Midwest Trivia Contest action questions

Mary Grace Wagner
Columnist

Last term, I interviewed Lawrentians about what pieces of entertainment and media got them through the summer of lockdown and isolation. This term, I’m doing the same thing, except it’s my turn. Each week, I’m giving my comfort food, pop-culture and art suggestions for the dreary winter we’re facing. What’s something you can watch, read or listen to that takes your mind off of the real world? Well, let me tell you.

Okay, so, I promise that this is the last Great Midwest Trivia Contest related content you’ll see in the paper until next year. This and the winners announced in the Features section will be it, and then we’ll be out of your hair. This term my column is about the silly pieces of culture that give us comfort while the world is less than comforting itself and a cornerstone of Trivia is the vast ocean of meme culture it draws upon and, in turn, creates. Welcome to your crash course guide to the action questions of this year’s Great Midwest Trivia Contest. If you’d like to follow along and see the creative output of all the teams go to the Discord server provided in the QR code and search through the #action-question-submissions text channel.

Action questions aren’t normal Trivia questions; they are more like creative prompts wherein a team has to create something (an audio recording, a drawing, a website, etc.) and submit it for varying amounts of points. Action questions elicit some of the most fun and out-of-the-box submissions of the contest, and this year was no different.

Action questions typically correspond to a specific theme hour, so, going hour by hour we can divvy them up. This started with Podcast Hour, when teams were challenged to create “the world’s shortest podcast about any topic they were passionate about,” only criteria being, it had to include a midroll ad. Team 135, Delguigi, posted a four-minute masterpiece on the origins of “the Bee Movie,” focusing on how Jerry Seinfeld was apparently involved in every aspect of the production, laughed at every line and led the entire production team to believe that they were producing a good movie. The midroll ad was one for dust mites — “Just when you thought you had a clean house, you’ll have a handful of dust mites in it!” Another highlight from Podcast Hour was the submission from on-campus team, Team 2, High School Musical the Musical The Series, which was performed entirely by Lawrence Students. Their podcast, “Game of Scones,” was about scones, games and how to play games that are made of scones or about scones.

Another favorite was the action question for Crime Hour, in which teams were tasked with committing a state-specific misdemeanor that is not specific to the state they were located in, just to avoid encouraging any actual crimes. Scrolling down this portion of the action question thread will treat you to videos of senior Grace Foster yelling obscenities on College Avenue in the middle of the night, pet rats watching films that portray felonies and people attempting to sell their cats.

I had the pleasure of judging the Sci-Fi Hour action question, where teams had to create an original Sci-Fi move poster. Highlights include the submission from team #66, The Holy Broman Empire, whose film was titled “Charles Barkley Never Went to Space in Space Jam: an Exhaustive Documentary” that will be “cumbing to Theatres on 4/20/2069.” The poster from Team 129, We Need More Cowbell Martha, lists the 11 Trivia Masters as cast members and states as its tagline, “They thought they would sleep, they were wrong.” And how could I leave out the poster created by Team 3, Do you really trust an Aquarius? Their film was simply titled “BARN” and included a large picture of President Mark Burstein with lasers coming out of his eyes.

Then, there’s my favorite action question, which, unfortunately, I can’t really elaborate on in this here newspaper, but just know, it was a call for teams to write an Ode to the Peniongus, and I recommend you go look at those yourself for a good and deserved laugh.

That’s really the thought behind action questions — they’re meant to be creative, funny and to put a smile on Trivia Masters’ and players’ faces alike. You don’t have to have played Trivia to find them amusing, and that’s why they are my brainless pop culture suggestion this week. Go check out the silly stuff your fellow students and alumni have put together in the Trivia 56 discord; I promise confusion will be outweighed by amusement!



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VOLUNTEERS IN TUTORING AT LAWRENCE (VITAL)

The VITAL Program matches Lawrence volunteers with K-12 students in the Appleton Area School District. These matches meet generally once or twice per week for roughly 30 minutes and will be meeting virtually. Tutors are able to indicate their grade-range preference as well as the subjects they are comfortable tutoring.

Voices from the Editorial Board: Revisiting our editorial policies

This week, we would like to utilize this space to lay out our editorial policies, which have recently been revisited in the wake of publishing a letter to the editor on *The Lawrentian* website on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021.

The Lawrentian Editorial Policy as of Feb. 5, 2021

Lawrence University defines hate speech as “forms of expression (whether words or symbolic actions) that attack or use discriminatory language, or create an atmosphere of intimidation, harassment, or abuse, because of an actual or perceived identity group membership.” *The Lawrentian* will not publish anything that falls under this definition of hate speech. This applies to everything published in *The Lawrentian*, including Letters to the Editor, Staff Editorials, and any work written in any of our sections.

All information claiming to be fact, including information contained in an editorial or opinion piece, will be verified for accuracy. This process will involve multiple rounds of flagging any potential inaccuracies as well as a team designated to addressing any flagged information. From there, editors will work with their writers to discuss the result and how to move forward with the piece if necessary.

The Lawrentian reserves the right to refuse to publish material that violates our standards. When we find that we are unable to decide whether a piece violates these standards, we will reach out to members of CODA and at least one of our faculty advisors to aid us in our decision-making.

If there appears to be a conflict of interest in either of these resources, we will seek additional outside perspectives so as to not allow this to deter our commitment to truth and inclusivity.

This policy is being reviewed by CODA at this time for inclusivity and accuracy. It is subject to change and any changes made will be announced here in next week’s edition.

Letters to the Editor can be sent in to Opinions & Editorials Editor, Lauren Kelly, at lawrentian@lawrence.edu. We review all letters and consider them for publication. *The Lawrentian* staff reserves the right to edit for clarity, decency, accuracy and grammar. All letters should be submitted on the Monday before publication, and should not be more than 500 words.

Caguana

Carmen San Diego
Columnist

It’s fifth week, and Miss Carmen feels as gray as the winter sky that Wisconsin offers. I’d like to reset the intentions of this column. I am here to write to you, dearest reader, from a passionate place, a place of love. My previous articles have been written with a firm tone, encouraging Lawrentians to continue to follow safety guidelines, engage in conversations about difficult topics with love and kindness and, to most importantly, embark on a journey of learning. The hardest lessons to learn often lead us down the Valley of Shadows.

In national music entertainment news, Dominican musical artist DaniLeigh previewed an upcoming song of hers titled, “Yellow Bone,” on Instagram. The contents of the song, specifically its lyrics, were quickly analyzed by activists, educators, commentators and many in the entertainment industries in Hollywood. What followed in her comments section was ... well ... cataclysmic. Hell hath no fury like Black Instagram and Twitter scorned. The comments ranged from the general calls to cancel the artist to those educating her on the issues, and many just unfollowed her completely. (An unfollow is just as bad as a negative comment since many celebrities get paid to post on social media platforms like Instagram. They get sponsorship deals based on how many followers they have ... so, I’m assuming that this scandal must have cost her money.) However, a few hours later, she did post an “*apology*” video addressing viewers, explaining that she is not a racist or colorist because she has a dark-skinned, Black boyfriend and friends ... Where have we heard that argument before?

The history of the Caribbean, specifically the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, and how it has dealt with topics of national identity, race and its role in the world after

Christopher Colum-bi\$ch arrived on the coast of Hispaniola, is complex (and that’s an understatement). Contemporary Caribbean scholars, like Jorge Duany, have written books, articles and presented critical theoretical frameworks that essentially tell us that race in the Caribbean is not talked about or categorized within the same binaries that it is in the United States. In the Dominican Republic alone, many terms might be used to describe someone’s racial identity or their phenotypic features. The following are terms that might be used throughout the Spanish-speaking Caribbean as racial categories or as adjectives to refer to someone’s phenotypic features: *trigueño/a/e*, *moreno/a/e*, *negro/a/e*, *mulato/a/e*, *prieto/a/e*, *mestizo/a/e*, *jincho/a/e*, *café con leche*, *colora/ao/ae*, *rubio* and many more. There are also various regional terms specific to the island; for example, *jibaro/a/e* is a term specific to Puerto Rico. This word has historically described poor rural farmers that have Taino (First Nations of many of the Caribbean islands) phenotypic features. Many Caribbean proverbs are unique to each island’s specific national, colonial, cultural and racial histories like, “*Yo nací con la macha ‘e plátano*, or “*Soy boricua de pura cepa*.” During European colonial rule, throughout the Caribbean, there were a variety of racial caste systems. Artists of the time even created caste paintings throughout the Caribbean and Latin American colonies that visually depicted what individuals were assumed to look like according to their racial identity. I encourage you to do a quick Google search of *casta* paintings. How those were racially mixed with African parentage is truly terrifying and indicative of the way in which Spanish colonizers viewed Black and darker-skinned people at the time. These are sentiments that still exist today in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and Latin America (referred to as “anti-

Blackness”).

To summarize the racial hierarchy that existed in the Caribbean and, in many ways still does, *purebred* whites were at the very top, enjoying all of the social, political and economic benefits society had to offer. Specifically, white men enjoyed the social, political and economic benefits society had to offer. In contrast, African slaves and darker-skinned people were often abused, exploited and solely considered as tools to further Euro-colonial expansion befitted from none of the social benefits.

This short explanation of the racial caste systems in the Caribbean tells us what exactly? Well, that mixed-race people in the Caribbean who are lighter-skinned, like DaniLeigh, undoubtedly benefit from colorism and even function as citizens of the world with a colonized mind. DaniLeigh has been referred to as a white Latina performing as a Black woman — a lot to unpack there. Essentially, DaniLeigh benefits from colorism and her denying that she does because she dates a Black dark-skinned man shows her internalized anti-Blackness. Instead of admitting and understanding that she does benefit from what many call “light skin privilege,” she indicates how detached she is from the reality of racial complexities within the United States. She might also be detached from racial complexities within her own community, which is even more terrifying and jarring. DaniLeigh is, however, a great example of the condition of many of those who are a part of the Caribbean diaspora. The world does not move without the Caribbean, nor does the Caribbean move without Afro-Caribbean creativity. I am not saying that DaniLeigh is a white woman, but she is absolutely behaving like the many performative allies that are White women. I hope she takes this as an opportunity to learn from her mistakes. The next one might cost her her career.

What to Keep While Keeping On: Musical mementos

Sarah Matthews
Columnist

I am not afraid to confess that I still have the Taylor Swift *Fearless* CD I received for Christmas in third grade. I am also not afraid to say that I still consistently listen to Taylor Swift. Look, I know she is not everyone’s favorite artist. I am sure that, on a campus with a highly-regarded conservatory, that may be an understatement.

And, no, I am not using this article just to project my thoughts about Taylor Swift, though I am really tempted to just fangirl over her. I think that now, more than ever, we are all finding a connection to music. While I am sure many students had an intense relationship with music before entering a global pandemic, I think we all have found music to be a sense of comfort during these difficult times.

I am in no way trying to say that one type of music is better than the other. That decision is entirely up to you as an individual listener. What I would like to point out, though, is that not only does everyone have a different taste in music but everyone’s comfort songs vary tremendously.

While Taylor Swift’s “All Too Well” may be my choice of song to blast in the car when I’m feeling sad, I do not expect it to be even close to everyone’s favorite sad song. I know my music taste may be seen as inferior by some of my peers, but that is totally okay. I respect everyone’s choice of music, and all I wish is for you to do the same.

With the Conservatory being such a large part of Lawrence’s personality, I believe there is tension on campus when it comes to music preference. Sometimes, I’m afraid to tell people what I like to listen to, expecting I may get scoffed at. But, I know this is just in my head. If I have learned anything from attending a college with a large number of musicians and artists, it’s that these students are open to exploring.

With this in mind, I want to reach out to anyone who may be a little embarrassed by their taste in music. I think comparing music preference is only natural, as we tend to compare our tastes in many things — music just being one of the categories.

Music, however, is crucial during this time. I don’t know of anyone who doesn’t rely on music to help them process their emotions. And with so many emotions being experienced at once for many of us, I

think it’s safe to say the last thing you should be beating yourself up for is the type of music you find pleasurable. Whether Bach or Rex Orange County is your go-to comfort artist, do yourself a favor and press the play button.

Even more important, though, is to keep in mind that everyone loves music for a different reason. We aren’t all going to wear the same pair of tennis shoes, so why would you ever expect someone to have even a remotely similar playlist as you? Not only should you be kind to your music world, but others as well.

So, do not hesitate to put on that go-to playlist, no matter how cringy you think the songs may seem to other people. Shuffle through those stacks of CDs you can’t seem to get rid of. I know we all hold onto the home-burned CDs we made as kids and titled with Sharpie markers. Take a look at those and reminisce on the music that got you through your childhood.

However, don’t feel the need to share your music with others if you don’t want to. Music is sacred, so if you’d rather keep your Spotify hidden from the world, that is more than okay. Some things, especially during a global pandemic, do not need to be shared with everyone. Just know that when you do share your taste in music with others on campus, we’ll only support what you choose to listen to.

Besides making fun of someone still listening to the Jonas Brothers is a very middle school joke to play on a person. Here at Lawrence, I think we should continue to embrace the love for all music. Knowing how important music is to us Lawrentians, now is the time not to act like you have superior taste or style compared to someone else. Now is the time to let people do what they need to do to feel better. And if that means crying to *Evermore* on repeat, then go right ahead.

I hope you continue to listen to your music, whether on Spotify, a CD or even a Walkman. Take care of yourself by letting music feed your soul. Remember to let other people take care of themselves the way that is best for them. Let go of judgment when it comes to music and everything else for that matter.

Also, since I couldn’t help myself, I thought I would leave you with some inspiring words from the goddess Taylor Swift herself.

“No matter what happens in life, be good to people. Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to leave behind.”

Extreme Ironing

continued from page 3

Yup, you heard that right — you can’t just attempt to iron the clothes. You will also be judged on how well your items are ironed. Might as well start taking some notes from your mom! The participants are also judged on how creatively they iron their clothes,

which I only know one simple way, but this may require some out of the box thinking! Then of course the participant(s) with the highest score wins! Remember, if you are thinking about trying this sport, it might help to get in good graces with your mom; you never know, you could learn a thing or two from them, and you may win big someday!

The opinions expressed in *The Lawrentian* are those of the students, faculty and community members who wrote them. *The Lawrentian* does not endorse any opinions piece except for the staff editorial, which represents a majority of the editorial board. *The Lawrentian* welcomes everyone to submit their own opinions using the parameters outlined in the masthead.

What in the World: Hate speeches on the beeches

Luther Abel
Columnist

Oh, how I loathe hate speech. That speech which is hateful; a hatefulness of speech, if you will. I can't tell you exactly what it is, but I can assure you it is very, very bad. So bad, in fact, that I think any citizen — be they writer, student, or educator — committing this most heinous crime should be permanently excised from society and sent to that most depraved of places — southern Alabama — to live out their hateful lives.

Before compiling our list of undesirables let us first define our terms as best we can. LUCC recently passed a resolution defining hate speech as “forms of expression (whether words or symbolic actions) that attack or use discriminatory language, or create an atmosphere of intimidation, harassment, or abuse, because of an actual or perceived identity group membership.” Simple enough, right? Let us start on that list.

First on our Alabama-bound list is the football team. Their obscene musculature, guttural lan-

guage, and hulking frames make classrooms uncomfortable for me — a willowy, muscle-less specimen — and most certainly fosters an environment of intimidation. But I am a fair individual. Given the LU football team suffers grievous abuse — namely losses and jibes — on the field, I propose the rest of the Midwest Conference be removed as well.

Natasha Trethewey's work must likewise be removed. Her application of racially-degrading language — most notably the use of the N-word — is unacceptable, no matter its purported use as a teaching device. That the administration would allow such an author's work to be read on campus, and elevated to First Year Studies at that...for shame. So the administration, failing to protect us from harsh language, should be bound for Tuscaloosa on the caboose-a.

Next, let us exhume and ship south the remains of Howard Zinn, a notable communist and occasional historian. After all, his hateful language towards the US military certainly feels like an attack on my Navy veteran self. How dare he accuse me of taking part in a capitalist and

colonial enterprise. As one of only a handful of individuals on campus with a military background, it is necessary I speak out and beg the administration to purge his name from the shelves of our libraries, classrooms, and Moodle pages.

Putting aside now my sad attempt at satire, I see little good coming from this hate-speech policy and instead all sorts of potential evils. Should I, a conservative, who sees Marxism as anathema to a free and prosperous people, not report a class or Lawrentian article for promoting the supposed merits of that pernicious ideology? After all, I do find it morally repulsive and directly opposed to my classically liberal self-identity. I could cost an excellent faculty member their position, or be the reason for a fellow writer's censure.

Another consideration when writing legislation is to assume one's ideological opponents will eventually grasp the levers of power. A later paragraph of the LUCC resolution states “[LUCC] do act to prohibit an action by the Council...to make any attempt or action to eliminate hate-speech protections for marginalized

communities...” Setting aside whether it is in LUCC's power to establish a resolution indefinitely, a pernicious actor could easily add on to, or clarify, the resolution to restrict discussion of reproductive rights, feminism, and homosexuality as being contradictory to a religious or moral standard. Once we start fiddling with what people can and can't say, why is there any reason to stop? The less folks can say, the less likely they are to offend a group of individuals. Trappist monks turn out to be the most inclusion-conscious members of society.

“Pfft!” you might scoff. You, Luther Abel, are a white male born of college-educated parents with all the privileges attendant. What do you know of adversity and legitimate emotions of fearfulness? More than some, and less than others, almost certainly. I was burying men beneath the waves, sitting in the crosshairs of adversarial missiles, and standing guard against terrorists aboard a capital ship while you were skipping band class in middle school. I defy your identity politics. We all have hidden anxieties, we all have suppressed memories, and Lord knows there are things we all

would change about ourselves or the world if we could.

Another rebuttal I can foresee is one of the Lawrence's Statement on Academic Freedom. My critics might claim that this will protect the classroom while excising all unacceptable expression elsewhere. A fair rejoinder but flawed as the academic freedom policy is not exempted from the hate speech policy, thus the hate speech policy would override the former. These two policies are irreconcilable.

Group identitarianism is cancer, and trying to protect it with inherently imprecise hate speech regulation will result in pain. Would it not be far better to discuss fundamental disagreements in the cleansing sunlight of debate instead of expelling seemingly odious opinions to fester in the shadows? I think you know my answer, and I'm afraid I know too many of yours.

Agree? Disagree? Let me know as ever at abel@lawrence.edu. Thank you for reading.

drake bell hooks
Columnist

Love in Action is a column aimed at understanding the world in its complexity framed through a lens of radical love and its practical implications. Too often, we focus on the hate that permeates the world, but what about Love? And where does its potential lie?

I have been thinking a lot about what it means to be single and how that can be a commitment of its own. With the onset of Imbolc, the pagan holiday between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, we look forward to days of increased sunlight and initiation of changes in nature. Subsequently, changes in our own lives can spark during this period.

Really, though, that change has to be accompanied by reflection and intention. Otherwise, it can peter out or take on a vague form of nothingness, much like New Year's resolutions. Change is something we can shape for our benefit, though, and as such, I have committed to a year of the single life. One dimension of that life includes my friends, the people who balance my worldview and bring me into emotional communion.

We should not have to reaffirm our commitments to our friends, but many folks need to take a closer look and prioritize what is essential in life, myself included. Committing to and loving friends does not mean hanging out with them around the clock. I would argue that it is necessary to have alone time for self-

reflection, hobbies and recharging. That way, we can better show up to our friendships as our true selves. Such a bond involves being curious, proactive in involving your friends in your life, generous and compassionate, supportive, vulnerable, respectful and responsible, to name a few. It is too easy to get caught up in oneself or the excitement of a fresh romance, especially amid the pandemic's difficulties. Yet, loving friendships have a remarkable quality of what I will term a hearth for the heart. A romance might be a blazing fire piled with the kindle of passion, but friends can be sanctuaries for truth-telling and vulnerability. This should also be the case for relationships, but in a world where neither friendships nor romances receive the proper love, friendships

more-so triumph in this regard.

An often-neglected aspect of friendships is that they need to be appreciated for what they are in our lives. Some people do not have enough friends or relationships in their lives whatsoever, but that is another issue for another time. What I find troubling is the idea of searching for *something* that is already there. Like many aspects of friendship, this can apply to romance as well. If we focus too much on finding the supposed love “out there” instead of investing time, energy and love into our present friendships, we risk the danger of spreading ourselves too thin and continuing the cycle of loneliness. In a constant quest for *something*, there is never enough to be had. I came to recognize the presence of this

vicious process in my own life when searching for a paganism that spoke to me. What resonated was the idea that “there is something that can only be found in one place. It is a great treasure, which may be called the fulfillment of existence. *The place where this treasure can be found is the place on which one stands.*” I miss having the myriad of acquaintanceships I was privy to before the pandemic, but that is much different from spending adequate time loving and bonding with my friends who will be there for me through thick and thin. Friends are one gateway to developing resilience through a time of such grief and suffering. Love your friends, and treasure the gift they are in your present life.

We are looking for guest writers for our publication! We want to feature student writers each week in different sections of the paper. To be featured as a guest writer, please reach out to lawrentian@lawrence.edu and share what you want to write!

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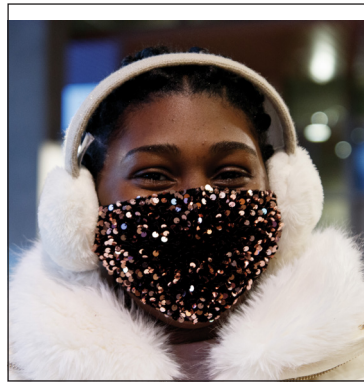
Thank you!



Photo Poll

Sarah Elise Navy
Staff Photographer

What’s your favorite ice cream flavor from the cafe?



“Pecan Praline.”
— LaDora Thomas



“Coffee.”
— Malcolm Davis



“Blue Moon ice cream flavor. I never heard of that before coming here.”
— Savon Williams



“Zanzibar Chocolate. It’s the most perfect flavor... ever.”
— Meralis Alvarez-Morales



“Chocolate.”
— Rashellie De La Cruz



“Birthday Cake.”
— Shaun Brown



“Oreo.”
— Valeria Deantes



“Exhausted Parent. It’s goats.”
— Bryce Denham



“My human doesn’t allow me to eat ice cream, but I like puppuccinos.”
— Chico

EDITORIAL POLICY:

Editorial policy is determined by the editors. Any opinions that appear unsigned are those of the majority of *The Lawrentian’s* Editorial Board.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. The editors reserve the right to edit for style and space. Letters must be emailed to: lawrentian@lawrence.edu. Submissions by email should be text attachments.

—All submissions to editorial pages must be turned in to *The Lawrentian* no later than 5 p.m. on the Monday before publication.

—All submissions to the editorial pages must be accompanied by a phone number at which the author can be contacted. Articles submitted without a contact number will not be published.

—*The Lawrentian* reserves the right to print any submissions received after the above deadline

—Letters to the editor will be edited for clarity, decency , accuracy and grammar.

—Letters to the editor should not be more than 500 words.

EDITORIAL BOARD

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Corrections

Beginning this term, we stopped publishing staff editorials. Rather than writing a collective piece each week, we created a space for members of our editorial board to present information or respond to issues that may be relevant to the Lawrence community. As you’ll notice, our editorial policy has been modified to reflect this change.

However, in our last edition, we inaccurately labeled the “Voices from the Editorial Board” piece. Due to an oversight on our part, we did not include the authors of the “Voices

from the Editorial Board” article, making it appear like an ordinary staff editorial “which represents a majority of the editorial board.”

This article was written by Editor in Chief Dannielle Konz, Features Section Editor Dani Massey, Variety Section Editor Celeste Reyes and Copy Editor Shania Johnson. This piece is reflective of the authors, not necessarily the entire board. We apologize for this inaccuracy and will be sure to sign these articles accurately moving forward.

In last week’s article, “SAASHA to host virtual sex-positive seminar on Feb. 4,” Maggie McGlen was incorrectly called a sophomore, but she is a junior. We apologize for the mistake.



Lawrence University is competing in the
2021 Campus Race to Zero Waste!

From January 31–March 12, every time you bring a reusable clamshell or reusable bag for dining at Andrews Commons, you will get a slip to enter yourself into a drawing for \$20 in dining credit! Winners will be selected WEEKLY until the end of winter term.

Reduce your waste!
Reuse items when possible!
Recycle properly, rinse it and use the right bin!



ASK A QUESTION, SAVE A LIFE

QPR SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAININGS

Monday, Feb. 1st, 4PM - 5:30PM
Thursday, Feb. 4th, 7PM - 8:30PM

Please email molly.a.ruffing@lawrence.edu with any questions.

Scan to sign up!